

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND
THE CHESAPEAKE BAY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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The Chesapeake Bay Program is regarded as both a national and international model for managing a complex ecosystem. The success of the program relies on the partnerships among the governments of the Bay's jurisdictions, the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of other federal agencies, public interest groups and the private sector. As the Bay Program increases its emphasis on the role of agriculture in restoring the Bay, strengthening and developing new partnerships with the agricultural community including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is essential. Therefore, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council and the United States Department of Agriculture declare that:

*T*he Chesapeake Bay Program should serve as a national model for using program and service delivery to farmers to emphasize both environmentally and economically sound practices.

This should be accomplished through partnerships established with the USDA, state and local governments, the environmental and agricultural communities, the private sector and other federal agencies.

*I*n order to accomplish this general goal, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture agree to carry out the following actions:

concept of total resource management planning and to report to the Executive Council at its 1994 meeting on progress toward meeting the general goal of more environmentally sound farm practices.

- ◇ The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will direct its agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service and other appropriate agencies within the Bay jurisdictions of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington D.C. to continue to work with state, local and other federal agencies to develop and implement the concept of total resource management planning on agricultural lands.
- ◇ The Chesapeake Bay Program working with USDA will analyze staffing and fiscal requirements necessary for both the governmental and private sectors to implement the concept of total resource management planning in the watershed and in a manner that will support the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- ◇ The Chesapeake Bay Program Agricultural Steering Committee will continue to meet for one year to assist in the implementation of the

- ◇ The Secretary will designate a senior level policy maker to the Steering Committee to participate in that process along with the Secretaries or Commissioners of Agriculture and Environment and other senior level agriculture officials in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
- ◇ The Secretary will designate departmental policy officials to the Bay Program's committees including the Implementation Committee, Non-point Source and Toxics Subcommittees and others as needed.
- ◇ The USDA will work with the Bay Program to efficiently coordinate watershed based research and funding for that research among federal, state and private entities.
- ◇ Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, USDA and EPA will work cooperatively to effectively implement our respective state and federal pollution prevention programs.

Date January 25, 1994

FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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